

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1415

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 40

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 6763

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PINS, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE SITUATION AUG. 2: SUCCESS OF VARIOUS NEGOTIATION

EFFORTS APPEARS TIED TO TELL ZAATAR SOLUTION; HEAVY FIGHTING IN

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SOUTH

REF: BEIRUT 6726

1. SUMMARY: NOTING FURTHER HAS COME OF SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT, AS ARAFAT MAY DELAY TRIP TO DAMASCUS IN LIGHT OF SYRIAN CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT. IMPLEMENTATION OF BOTH SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT AND LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS IN BEIRUT ARRANGED BY ARAB LEAGUE MAY DEPEND OF RESOLUTION OF TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION PROBLEM. GEMAYEL THREATENS "INTERNATIONALIZATION" IF AL FORCES NOT EFFECTIVE. JUNBLATT ATTITUDE ON AGREEMENT STILL NOT CLEAR. ICRC EVACUATION OF TELL ZAATAR CLEARLY STILL BEING PREVENTED BY CHAMOUN. WEST BEIRUT KIDNAPPING WAVE MAY HAVE PASSED, BUT DIRECTOR OF FINANCE KHALIL SALEM DEAD. NEW ANTI-SAIQA FORMED BY FORMER SAIQA DEPUTY. ARTILLERY FIRE BUT NO MOVEMENT IN CHRISTIAN HIGH METN CAMPAIGN. NABAA EXODUS CONTINUES AS ARMENIANS TRY REASSERT NEUTRALITY. HEAVY FIGHTING AROUND JEZZINE IN SOUTH, WITH SYRIANS AND CHRISTIANS MOVING OFFENSIVELY AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE ARAB ARMY. END SUMMARY.

2. POLITICAL. PLO NEGOTIATOR FAROUK KADDOUMI RETURNED AGAIN TO DAMASCUS JULY 30 AND ISSUED STATEMENT THAT PLO DID NOT WISH IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH ONE ARAB COUNTRY (SYRIA) TO DETRIMENT OF ANOTHER (EGYPT) AND PROMISING TO "CLARIFY" ATTACK IN SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON SINAI II AGREEMENT. JUNBLATT, AFTER MEETING WITH ARAFAT JULY 31, SAID THAT LATTER WISHED TO CORRECT CONTROVERSIAL STATEMENT TO READ, "THE IMPERIALIST-ZIONIST PLOT REACHED ITS PAROXYSM AFTER (REPEAT AFTER, RATHAN THAN "AT THE MOMENT OF") THE SINAI ACCORD." ARAFAT ALSO SAID THAT PALESTINIAN MEMBERS OF TRIPARTITE (OR QUADRIpartite) COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED BY AGREEMENT MIGHT BE DESIGNATED WITHIN TWO DAYS. HOWEVER, AS OF AUG. 2, NO FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS FOLLOWING SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT, TO INCLUDE WHAT MIGHT NOW BE ARAFAT'S TRAVEL PLANS. HE MAY BE AWAITING FALLOUT FROM DAMASCUS CABINET SHUFFLE.

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3. SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD MIGHT FOUNDER BECAUSE OF LACK OF ANY LOCAL AGREEMENTS ON TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION. ARAB LEAGUE DEPTUY Kholi SAID AUGUST 1 THAT NOTHING FURTHER COULD BE DISCUSSED AMONG WARRING PARTIES, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF TRI- OR QUADRIpartite COMMITTEE, UNTIL TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION EFFECTED. Kholi HIMSELF, NEVERTHELESS,

CONTINUES HIS ROUNDS, MEETING CHAMOUN, GEMAYEL, GHASSAN TUEINI, MICHEL SASSINE AND OTHERS AS CHAMOUN'S GUEST AT VILLAGE OF AAKRA. AN-NAHAR SAYS GROUP DISCUSSED TELL ZAATAR, MILITARY SITUATION AROUND JEZZINE, AND KIDNAPPING OF KHALIL SALEM. VOICE OF LEBANON SAYS THEY DISCUSSED EXTENSIONS OF ARAB LEAGUE FORCES DEPLOYMENTS ALONG CONFRONTATION LINE AND TO BEIRUT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. L'ORIENT SAYS THEY DISCUSSED WAYS TO REIMPLEMENT CAIRO ACCORDS ON PALESTINIAN STATUS. KHOLI IS TO MEET CHRISTIAN LEADERS AGAIN AUG 2 IN ASHRAFIEH.

4. ON LEBANESE RIGHT, PIERRE GEMAYEL REPEATS DAILY HIS DEMAND THAT ARAB LEAGUE FORCE BE STRONG ENOUGH TO FUNCTION AS "INTERVENTION FORCE," THREATENING "INTERNATIONALIZATION" OF LEBANESE CONFLICT IF AL INEFFECTIVE. PERE KASSIS, WHO IS REPORTED TO BE VISITING THE VATICAN, MAY ALSO GO TO U.S., SEEKING SUPPORT. FRANGIE REPORTEDLY SAYS RECONCILIATION WITH PALESTINIANS (AS OCCASIONALLY ADVOCATED BY GEMAYEL FAMILY) IS IMPOSSIBLE. MUSTAPHA JEHA, PROMINENT YOUNG SHIITE LAWYER, REPORTEDLY BRIEFED FRANGIE ON NEW SECRET SHIA ORGANIZATION (ABOUT WHICH WE HAVE HEARD AIO FROM MUHSIN SLIM) AND SHIITE DISAFFECTION WITH LEBANESE LEFT. FROM ANOTHER UNCONFIRMED SOURCE WE HEAR THAT FRANGIE IS CONSIDERING ANNOUNCING CABINET CHANGES IN FEW DAYS, AND THAT CHAMOUN IS AWARE OF HIS PLANS. KARIM PAKRADOUNI WENT AGAIN TO DAMASCUS AUGUST 1.

5. ON LEBANESE LEFT, JUNBLATT SAYS LEBANON NEEDS A RESPITE. HE TIES HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS PHALANGE TO ITS ATTITUDE ON TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION. ON CONFIDENTIAL

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SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT, HE REPEATS IDEA THAT ALL ARAB STATES OUGHT TO BE ON SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE, BUT HAS NOT YET ANNOUNCED "DEFINITIVE" POSITION ON AGREEMENT. HIS NEWLY ESTABLISHED "POLITICAL COUNCIL" (BEIRUT 6740), ACCORDING TO ISAM NAMAN, ITS NEW CHIEF OF INFORMATION, WILL HAVE FOLLOWING PROGRAM: (1) ESTABLISH CIVIL ADMINISTRATIONS WHERE NON NOW FUNCTIONING; (2) COOPERATE WITH EXISTING CIVIL ADMINISTRATIONS; (3) COMPEL "NONCOOPERATIVE" EXISTING CIVIL ADMINISTRATIONS TO COOPERATE WITH COUNCIL; (4) ESTABLISH POPOULAR SECURITY FORCE, POPULAR ARMY, AND POPULAR MILITIA.

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1416

INFO SIT-REP COLLECTIVE PRIORITY 41

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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DIA WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BEIRUT 6763

STUTTGART FOR ELG

6. AMONG UNCOMMITTED LEBANESE POLITICOS, ISLAMIC
GROUP 76 SUPPOSED TO MEET AUGUST 2 TO DISCUSS DEVELOPING
ITS CONTACTS WITH SYRIAN GOVT (L'ORIENT), AND, USACCORDING
TO PRIVATE SOURCE, TO SEEK TO PERSUADE PRIHN KARAME
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TO CALL CABINET MEETING AS WAY TO HEAD OFF JUNBLATT'S POLITICAL COUNCIL. KARAME HIMSELF IS QUOTING AN-NAHAR AS SAYING THAT HE DID NOT INVITE SYRIAN ARMY INTO LEBANON, THEREFORE HE HAS NO RIGHT TO ASK FOR ITS WITHDRAWAL.

7. PALESTINIANS SAYING LITTLE AT MOMENT, BUT BEIRUT PRESS NOTES COMMENTS IN KUWAIT OF FATAH DEPUTY SALAH KHALAF (ABU IYAD) CRITICIZING ARAB LEAGUE FAILURE

TO INTERVENE EFFECTIVELY IN LEBANON, BEHAVIOR OF SYRIAN TROOPS AND SAIQA ELEMENTS IN LEBANON, AND REASSERTING THAT PLO WANTS NOTHING MORE THAN RETURN TO CAIRO ACCORDS.

8. TELL ZAATAR. TELL ZAATAR EVACUATION FAILURE PRINCIPAL STORY IN BEIRUT PRESS. ICRC SPOKESMAN IN BEIRUT SAID EXPLICITLY JULY 31 THAT CONDITIONS DEMANDED BY RIGHTISTS UNACCEPTABLE. ATTEMPTED EVACUATION THAT DAY FRUSTRATED WHEN CHAMOUNISTS REFUSED TO ALLOW SMALL CONVOY OF FIVE TRUCKS AND TWO AMBULANCES TO PROCEED CLOSER THAN SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS FROM CAMP. ICRC ANNOUNCED THAT ONLY LEBANESE LEFT AND PALESTINIANS HAD ACTUALLY SIGNED AGREEMENT. CHAMOUN HAS CLAIMED PRIVATELY THAT HE BELIEVES THAT ICRC IS MERELY TRYING TO ASSIST PALESTINIANS. WE SUSPECT HE SIMPLY TRYING TO MAXIMIZE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN DEAD. AL DEPUTY KHOLI IS STILL WORKING ON CHAMOU FZO SIND SOLUTION.

ICRC DID ASSIST 38 PERSONS, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WHO HAD FOUND REFUGE IN AREA OF DEKOUANEH, NEAR TELL ZAATAR, TO CROSS CONFRONTATION LINE. SWEDISH DOCTOR AGNETA ZELBI, STILL INSIDE CAMP, TOLD SWEDISH JOURNALIST BY RADIO THAT CAMP NOW HAD 1400 DEAD AND 4000 WOUNDED.

9. KIDNAPPING. KIDNAPPING WAVE OF LAST FEW DAYS IN WEST BEIRUT APPEARS TO HAVE SUDDENLY DIED DOWN, WITH NO INSTANCES REPORTED DURING AUGUST 1. DIRECTOR OF FINANCE KHALIL SALEM FOUND DEAD AT HELOU BARRACKS
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(NEAR CORNICHE MAZRAA, AREA OF NASSERIST INFLUENCE)
EARLY AUGUST 2, AFTER NUMEROUS LEBANESE LEADERS EXPRESSED INCREASING INDIGNATION, INCLUDING RAYMOND EDDE, SAEB SALAM, RASHID SOLH,

ABDULLAH YAFI, PIERRE GEMAYEL AND ELIAS SARKIS, WHO CALLED SALEM "SYMBOL OF NATIONAL UNITY." MARONITE COOK AT U.S. EMBASSY STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. L'ORIENT NOTES THAT SEVERAL OF RECENT KIDNAPPINGS HAVE BEEN MOSLEM, SPECULATES THAT BANDITRY RATHER THAN RELIGIOUS WARFARE MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THEM.

RAYMOND EDDE BLAMED FATAH FOR FAILURE TO PREVENT KIDNAPPINGS, AND CLAIMED THAT THIS IS BECAUSE SOME PALESTINIANS SECRETLY WANT PARTITION.

10. A NEW GROUP APPEARS. NEW ANTI-SYRIAN SAIQA FORMED UNDER LEADERSHIP OF FORMER SAIQA DEPUTY HANA BATHISH AS SECRETARY-GENEERAL, ALI IBRAHIM AS SPOKESMAN, IBRAHIM SANDIQLY AS MILITIA COMMANDER, AND ABU NIDAL, MUHSIN SULEIMAN, AYOUB DAKHLALLAH AND IBRAHIM MUKAHHIL AS MEMBERS. NEW ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAM INCLUDES "FULL LIBERATION" OF PALESTINE AND INSEPARABILITY FROM "LEBANESE NATIONAL MOVEMENT" (JUNBLATT). BATHISH REVEALED SEVERAL DOCUMENTS PURPORTING TO PROVE SYRIAN AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS IN LEBANON.

11. MILITARY. ON GROUND, HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE REPORTED IN HIGH METN AREAS OF SANNINE, AINTOURA AND HEZZERTA, BUT CHRISTIAN OFFENSIVE NOT MOVING FORWARD. SIMILAR REPORTS FROM ALEY ANDKAHALE. IN BEIRUT, HEAVY ARTILLERY FIRE ATH ELL ZAATAR. PRESSURE CONTINUING AT NABAA, BUT LITTLE GROUND ACTION. POPULATION REPORTEDLY STEADILY LEAVING AREA FOR WEST BEIRUT. ALEXANDER GEMAYEL REPORTEDLY HAS MADE AGREEMENT WITH IMAM MOUSSA SADR AND KAMEL ASSAD TO PERMIT PEACEFUL DEPARTURE OF (LARGELY SHIITE) NABAA POPULATION. ARMENIAN LEADERSHIP ISSUED LONG STATEMENT ASSERTING CONTINUED EFFORTS BY ARMENIANS IN NEIGHBORING BOURG-HAMMOUD TO REMAIN NEUTRAL. STATEMENT CLAIMED THAT PALESTINIANS CONFIDENTIAL

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WITHIN NABAA DELIVERED ULTIMATUM TO ARMENIANS TO RESIST CHRISTIAN PRESSURES IN AREA AND DENIED EMPHATICALLY THAT ARMENIANS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH PRESSURES ON MOSLEMS TO LEAVE NABAA FOR WEST BEIRUT. CITY CONFRONTATION LINES RELATIVELY QUIET.

12. PRINCIPAL MILITARY ACTIVITY OVER WEEKEND IN SOUTH, WHERE SYRIANS AND CHRISTIAN ELEMENTS APPARENTLY MOVING AGAINST PALESTINIANS AND LAA AROUND ROUM AND AZOUR. CHRISTIANS CLAIM THAT SOME TWENTY OF ARMORED VEHICLES DELIVERED BY LIBYA AT

TYRE JULY 30 FOR ARAB LEAGUE USED IN BATTLE AGAINST
THEM BY PALESTINIANS, AND SIX DESTROYED. AL DEPUTY
KHOLI FIRMLY DENIED THAT ANY AL VEHICLES WERE USED.
SYRIANS ALSO SHELLED VILLAGES OF JUBA AND RAYHAN.
AS-SAFFIR SAYS THAT FIGHTING HAS PROVOKED LARGE
EXODUS OF AREA POPULATION TO SIDON. SIDON MARONITE
ARCHBISHOP AL HILU WAS REPORTEDLY KIDNAPPED FOR
ONE HOUR, THEN RELEASED, BY PALESTINIAN REJECTIONISTS.
HUNT

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